

**To:** Janifer, Pamela[Janifer.Pamela@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hull, George  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 3:53:57 PM  
**Subject:** FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

Pamela,

I dropped by OCIR to alert the appropriate staff of this spill in Colorado. I couldn't find Carolyn Levine, but was told I should alert you. I also spoke with a gentleman who covers water named Dennis, but I wasn't able to find him in the director. Could you share this with him, as well. Region 8 is handling press and congressional inquiries, so far. Thanks,

George Hull, Director

Office of Media Relations

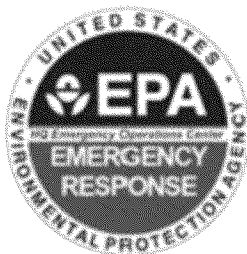
U.S. EPA

Tel. 202-564-0790

**From:** Eoc, Epahq  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 4:48 PM  
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of 1630 EDT on 08/06/2015**

**Overview:** At around 10:00 a.m. on August 5th, an EPA and Colorado State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety team was working to investigate and address contamination at the abandoned Gold King Mine in San Juan County, CO. This work unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine wastewater into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates indicate that the release is approximately one million gallons that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach and all were unharmed.

The acidic mine water associated with this release contains high levels of sediment and metals. EPA teams are conducting sampling and visual observations today and will be monitoring river conditions over the next several days. EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** San Juan County officials are engaged in the response to the release. State officials are also on scene.

**EPA Actions:** A R8 OSC met with San Juan County leaders to discuss the release into the Animas River. R8 requested support from EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft and the plane is in route to collect photographic information to response officials.

**Media Interest:** Low

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150806/NEWS01/150809765/Mine-waste-in-Animas-River-nears-Durango->

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28595759/animas-river-contaminated-by-1-million-gallons-contaminated](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28595759/animas-river-contaminated-by-1-million-gallons-contaminated)

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.**

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